

Title: trueNorth

Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
3340 South Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85282
480-350-5287
480-350-5161 FAX
www.tempe.gov/arts



Photo by Craig Smith

Title: trueNorth

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts Lobby

Artist: Mayme Kratz & Mark Ryan

Completion: 2007

Medium: Concrete, resin, stainless steel and fire

Description: This campfire on the edge of the water was inspired by the Native American legend of the "Great Spirit." The story, passed down through the generations, tells of the Great Spirit assigning guardianship of the earth, wind, fire and water to different races of people and also assigning each of these basic elements to one of the four coordinate directions: "To North, the Great Spirit Gave Fire." Using the geometric center of Tempe Center for the Arts semi-circular plan, a line extends through the Papago Buttes, Camelback Mountain and beyond, connecting to a much larger connects the individual to this greater perspective.

Funding: The Project was funded through city of Tempe Capital improvement Project Percent for Art funds.

Artist biographies: Mayme Kratz was born in San Diego Country, Calif., and has lived in Phoenix since 1986. She is self-educated and focused on her creative life at an early age. She apprenticed with artist James Hubbell in her early 20s. Her solo exhibitions include: The Tucson Museum of Art and The Tacoma Museum of Glass, as well as group exhibitions at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Phoenix Art Museum and Blue Star Art in San Antonio. Mayme was visiting artist at Pilchuck Glass in Tacoma, Wash. Currently, she is the artist in residence at the Desert Botanical Garden. Her work is in many private and public collections throughout the United States and has recently been acquired by the Bechtler Arts Foundation in Charlotte, N.C. She is represented by and exhibits regularly at Lisa Sette Gallery (Arizona) and Anne Reed Gallery (Idaho).

Mark Ryan grew up in the desert near Phoenix. He received his initial training in architecture at the University of Cincinnati, while also lettering in intercollegiate athletics. As an undergraduate he spent time in Greece, through the University of Illinois, studying urban design and later did his graduate work at the Architectural Association in London on a Foundation Scholarship. He lived and worked in Germany, Italy, England and numerous parts of the U.S. before returning to Phoenix to open his own studio. He is involved in public art, in addition to architecture, and is a visiting professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Arizona State University.